

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
 - 5 receiving a plurality of respective energy events;
 - receiving a plurality of base-level energy models;
 - generating a plurality of power models, wherein each power model hierarchically
10 instantiates one or more of said base-level energy models; and
 - mapping each respective energy event to one or more of said plurality of power
models.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - hierarchically evaluating a particular base-level energy model corresponding to a
given respective energy event;
 - 20 estimating an energy associated with evaluation of said particular base-level
energy model; and
 - accumulating said energy in a power estimate corresponding to said given
respective energy event.
- 25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein a first subset of said plurality of base-level energy
models includes a plurality of parameters configured for selecting physical energy model
characteristics.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein at least one of said first subset includes an aspect ratio parameter configured for scaling an energy estimate according to a value of said aspect ratio parameter.
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5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of base-level energy models includes a plurality of parameters configured for selecting microarchitectural energy model characteristics.
- 10 6. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of base-level energy models includes a data value parameter configured for scaling an energy estimate according to a value of said data value parameter.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising deriving a respective energy estimate
- 15 corresponding to each of a subset of said plurality of base-level energy models from data extracted from a previously completed design.
8. A computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed:
- 20 receive a plurality of respective energy events;
- receive a plurality of base-level energy models;
- generate a plurality of power models, wherein each power model hierarchically
- 25 instantiates one or more of said base-level energy models; and
- map each respective energy event to one or more of said plurality of power models.

9. The computer readable medium of claim 8 further comprising instructions which, when executed:

5 hierarchically evaluate a particular base-level energy model corresponding to a given respective energy event;

 estimate an energy associated with evaluation of said particular base-level energy model; and

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 accumulate said energy in a power estimate corresponding to said given respective energy event.

10. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein a first subset of said plurality
15 of base-level energy models includes a plurality of parameters configured for selecting physical energy model characteristics.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein at least one of said first
subset includes an aspect ratio parameter configured for scaling an energy estimate
20 according to a value of said aspect ratio parameter.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein at least one of said plurality
of base-level energy models includes a plurality of parameters configured for selecting
microarchitectural energy model characteristics.

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13. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein at least one of said plurality
of base-level energy models includes a data value parameter configured for scaling an
energy estimate according to a value of said data value parameter.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 8 further comprising deriving a respective energy estimate corresponding to each of a subset of said plurality of base-level energy models from data extracted from a previously completed design.

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15. A system comprising:

an architecture simulation model configured to produce a plurality of respective energy events;

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a plurality of base-level energy models;

a plurality of power models, wherein each power model hierarchically instantiates one or more of said base-level energy models; and

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a mapping file configured to map each respective energy event to one or more of said plurality of power models.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said architecture simulation model is further configured to:

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hierarchically evaluate a particular base-level energy model corresponding to a given respective energy event;

25 estimate an energy associated with evaluation of said particular base-level energy model; and

accumulate said energy in a power estimate corresponding to said given respective energy event.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein a first subset of said plurality of base-level
5 energy models includes a plurality of parameters configured for selecting physical energy model characteristics.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of said first subset includes an aspect
10 ratio parameter configured for scaling an energy estimate according to a value of said aspect ratio parameter.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein at least one of said plurality of base-level energy
15 models includes a plurality of parameters configured for selecting microarchitectural energy model characteristics.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein at least one of said plurality of base-level energy
models includes a data value parameter configured for scaling an energy estimate
according to a value of said data value parameter.

20 21. The system of claim 15, wherein a respective energy estimate corresponding to
each of a subset of said plurality of base-level energy models is derived from data
extracted from a previously completed design.